

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/723,512
Reply to Office Action dated July 24, 2006

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SEP 22 2006

PATENT
450100-02864

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 10-11 are currently pending. Claims 1, 10 and 11 are independent. Claim 10 is hereby amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 2, 4 and 9 have been canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. No new matter has been introduced. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicant is entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, and 10-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,802,488 to Edatsune (hereinafter, merely "Edatsune").

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

"A speech recognition apparatus disposed in a robot, comprising:

wherein said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words,

wherein coefficients for said weighted words are controlled by the growth state." (emphasis added)

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As understood by Applicant, Edatsune relates to an interactive speech recognition device that recognizes speech and produces sounds or actions in response to the recognition result. The device comprises a response content level that creates recognition data with response content that corresponds to the fetched response content level.

It is respectfully submitted that Edatsune does not teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1. The Examiner asserts that Edatsune's disclosure at Figures 2B and 3A and Column 11, lines 8-32 and 47-59 is relevant.

However, in working example 2, Edatsune discloses that the coefficients for recognizable phrases for the speech recognition unit are controlled by the time of day. (Column 9, lines 16-38). For example, in the morning it is more likely to hear the words "good morning" than it is to hear "good evening" and so these words are weighted accordingly. Accordingly, Edatsune does not disclose weighting words in accordance with the growth state of the robot as recited in the present claims, but rather in accordance with the time of day.

Moreover, in working example 3, Edatsune discloses that the response content for the speech synthesis unit is controlled by the level. The response content is selected from the phrases for the speech recognition unit. Edatsune does not disclose that the coefficients for recognizable phrases are controlled by the level. As evidenced by Figure 3A, Edatsune's speech recognition unit 5 does not have a relational input from the response content level generation unit 31. Rather, Edatsune discloses that the response content changes with the clock time; not the speech recognition. For example, the toy may respond with "bow-wow" on the first day after purchase, and with "good morning" on the second day of purchase. Hence, Edatsune does not meet the recited limitation "speech recognition is performed using the weighted words" as required in the present claims.

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Applicant respectfully submits that Edatsune fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicant submits that there is no teaching or suggestion of a speech recognition apparatus disposed in a robot wherein said control means controls said speech recognition means such that the words described in said dictionary are weighted in accordance with the growth state of said robot and speech recognition is performed using the weighted words, wherein coefficients for said weighted words are controlled by the growth state, as recited in claim 1.

Indeed, Applicant submits that speech recognition itself which is not varied in accordance with growth stat but where a response (action) is varied as disclosed in Edatsune, is completely different that speech recognition varied in accordance with the growth state of the robot, as per Figure 7, 'Growth Score Setting Unit 46' and Figure 9, 'S2' of the present invention.

Accordingly, for at least these reasons, Edatsune fails to render the present invention unpatentable.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, independent claims 10 and 11, which recites similar features, is also believed to be allowable.

Therefore, Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 10 and 11 are patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention,

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however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

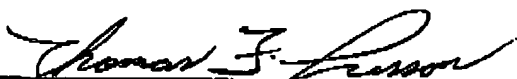
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited reference or references it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portion or portions of the reference or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicant respectfully requests early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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